

4TH ANNUAL LA COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK SUMMIT CONVENES

By Karen Zarsadias-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer



On Tuesday, September 9th, 2014, the Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network met for the fourth annual Suicide Prevention Summit at the California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles. Presented by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) and funded by the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), this year's all-day conference was titled *Emerging Best Practices in Suicide Prevention*.

LACDMH Medical Director Roderick Shaner, MD, welcomed the more than 250 attendees to the conference. He gave an overview of the summit and discussed the importance of the Suicide Prevention Network now more than ever as the community continues to mourn the loss of actor Robin Williams. Dr. Shaner spoke about the increased awareness of mental health and suicide since Williams' death, and the overwhelming response of the public to talk more openly about helping others faced with mental health challenges.



Following Dr. Shaner, LACDMH Medical Director of the Child, Youth and Family Administration, William Arroyo, MD, and CalMHSA's Theresa Ly, MPH, each gave their opening remarks to the crowded room. Participants then attended two breakout sessions during the day before finishing out the conference.

At the summit, several resource tables were on-hand to pass out information regarding suicide prevention, including LACDMH and Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services.

